



# Acreage Answers

## Noxious Weeds

By John Kennicker, ISU Extension Field Crops Specialist

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Can I sell my cream pie at the Farmer's Market?

What is a noxious weed? Can you identify noxious weeds on your acreage? Did you know that the law requires landowners to control noxious weeds?

A noxious weed can be described as any plant defined by law that is difficult to control, injurious, and troublesome to public health/roads, crops, livestock, or other property (ex. seed lots). In 1912, a man named Blatchley defined a weed as “a plant out of place or growing where it is not wanted. If you add the word noxious (harmful or injurious to health), you have a harmful weed.

There are two classifications of noxious weeds: primary and secondary. Absolutely no primary noxious weed seed is allowed in seed for sale in Iowa. Less than 1% by weight of seed for sale in Iowa can be composed of secondary noxious weeds. Primary noxious weeds (common name) include: quack grass, perennial sow thistle, Canada thistle, bull thistle, European morning glory or field bindweed, horse nettle, leafy spurge, perennial pepper-grass, Russian knapweed, buckthorn, musk thistle, and tall thistle. Secondary noxious weeds (common name) include: butterprint (annual), cocklebur (annual), wild mustard (annual), wild carrot (biennial), buckhorn (perennial), sheep sorrel (perennial), sour dock (perennial), smooth dock (perennial), poison hemlock, multiflora rose, wild sunflower (annual), puncture vine (annual), teasel (biennial), and shattercane (*Sorghum bicolor*).

According to the Iowa Weed Law, landowners are required to control noxious weeds present on their land. If landowners fail to comply with the weed law, county officials have the authority to destroy the weeds and bill the landowner for the cost of control. The classification of primary and secondary noxious weed applies to seed laws that specify the amount of weed seed that can be present in certified seed. Comparable to the “Iowa Weed Law”, most states have weed laws regarding the mandatory control or destruction of noxious weeds. A county weed commissioner, who oversees the enforcement the weed law, may be appointed by the county board of supervisors.

For information on the Iowa Weed Law, weed control, and noxious weeds, you may use the web site:

<http://www.weeds.iastate.edu/reference/weedlaw.htm>, 2000 Herbicide Manual for Agricultural Professionals (WC-92) \$3.75, and web site:

<http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/plants/>, respectively. Weed control publications/identification materials may be found at your local county Extension office.

# Horticulture Safety Quiz

Taken from the Horticulture & Home Pest News  
<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/>

Please share *Acreage*

*Answers* with your acreage neighbors. Call your local ISU Extension office to be placed on the mailing list for *Acreage Answers* and to give us suggestions for future articles.

## Central Iowa Extension offices

Boone Co. (515) 432-3882  
Clarke Co. (515) 342-3316  
Dallas Co., (515) 993-4281  
Green Co. (515) 386-2138  
Guthrie Co. (515) 747-2276  
Jasper Co. (515) 792-6433  
Madison Co. (515) 462-1001  
Marshall Co. (515) 752-1551  
Polk Co. (515) 261-4202  
Story Co. (515) 382-6551  
Warren Co. 515-961-6237

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Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, and the United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating.

1. When mowing a slope with a riding lawn mower, should you:
  - a. Mow up and down the slope
  - b. Mow across the slope
2. When mowing a slope with a walk-behind mower, should you:
  - a. Mow across the slope
  - b. Mow up and down the slope
3. Is it important to know what you are controlling before you select a pesticide?
  - a. yes
  - b. no
4. What is a pesticide?
  - a. A product that makes a claim to kill or repel specific pests.
  - b. A product that makes a claim to kill or repel all pests.
5. Before applying lawn and garden products, such as fertilizers or pesticides, is it important to know the size of the area to be treated?
  - a. yes
  - b. no
6. Where should pesticides be stored?
  - a. In a locked cabinet or storage unit
  - b. Out of the reach of children
7. Is it against the law to store pesticide products in containers other than their original container?
  - a. yes
  - b. no
8. All pesticide labels contain signal words indicating the potential danger to humans. Which signal word indicates the most toxic pesticide?
  - a. Danger
  - b. Warning
  - c. Caution
9. Are organic products safer to use than synthetic or non-organic products?
  - a. no
  - b. yes
10. What are the minimal clothing requirements for reducing exposure to pesticide concentrates or sprays?
  - a. Long-sleeved shirt, long pants, shoes, and chemical resistant gloves.
  - b. Short-sleeved shirt, shorts sandals, cotton gloves, & eyeglasses.
11. Is it advisable to mix pesticides stronger than label recommendations if you have a hard-to-control pest problem?
  - a. no
  - b. yes

(Answers on page 5)

# Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

By Beth Grabau Dallas County FSA

Do you have cropland or pastureland that lies along a waterway, or cropland that is in need of a grassed waterway to control erosion across the field? If so, this land maybe eligible for the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Under this 10-15 year program, eligible landowners are paid an annual rental rate on acres that they agree to seed. For example, an individual owns land adjacent to a river.

Under the Continuous CRP program a maximum 100-foot wide strip or filter strip along the river can be enrolled in this program for up to 15 years. The acres in this strip will be seeded down, with part of the cost to establish the cover paid by USDA.

Under the contract, an annual payment is made on those acres seeded down. Grassed waterways, filter strips, and riparian buffer strips are practices eligible under this program. Sign up for the 2000-year continues through September 30, 2000.

For more information, contact your local Farm Service Agency Office. FSA will assist you in signing up for this program. The Natural Resources Conservation Service will assist you in the proper seeding mixture the acreage enrolled in the program.

# Dust Control on Rural Roads

By: Rich Wrage, Boone County ISU Extension Education Director and Shawn Shouse, ISU Field Specialist /Ag Engineering

One of the less attractive aspects of rural living is dusty gravel roads. The dust can be a safety hazard as well as a nuisance for rural residents. County road departments can offer help in controlling road dust.

Road dust is made up mainly of powdered limestone by the continuous wear of crushed limestone road rock. Methods used to control road dust cause the particles to stick together into larger chunks that do not spread so easily with the wind or a passing vehicle. Two treatments are common in Central Iowa. The road surface may be sprayed with ligno-sulfonate (a derivative of tree sap that comes as a by-product from the paper mill industry) or an application of calcium chloride that absorbs moisture from the air and traps dust particles on the damp granules.

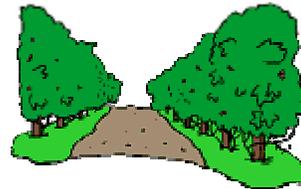
County road departments can supply you with a list of approved dust control contractors who can be hired at your request and expense. For Dallas County the engineers office encourages people to contact the dust control companies and the company will contact the engineer's office so they can modify their road

maintenance in the treated areas. Cost to rural residents is approximately 36 cents per foot of treated area for ligno-sulfonate. The area treated is usually 400 feet by 20 feet or \$144. Calcium chloride costs vary depending on your distance from the supplier, but may run around \$250 for 2 summer applications in early June & late July.

Calcium chloride has some advantages. Road maintenance crews may be able to blade over the calcium chloride treated area without harming the treatment. There may also be some residual affect from a calcium chloride treatment. An area treated for several years may build on the application of the previous year to provide better long-term dust control. Calcium chloride may also provide some winter control.

However, calcium chloride also has some disadvantages. It may be less effective at dust control than ligno-sulfonate. Mud laden with calcium chloride may be corrosive to unprotected metal and may contribute to the accelerated rusting of automobile bodies. If you choose calcium chloride, take extra care to keep vehicles washed and protected.

Controlling road dust can improve visibility, making a driveway access safer, as well as making your yard cleaner and more pleasant for summer activities. Contact your county engineer's office for details on dust control in your county.



# Garden Vegetables

Taken from the Horticulture & Home Pest News

<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/>

There is still time to plant many vegetable crops. The last practical dates to plant specific crops in central Iowa are listed below.

*June 20* -- tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, muskmelons\*, watermelons\*

*July 1* -- lima beans, sweet corn\*

*July 20* -- cucumbers, summer squash

*August 1* -- Beets, carrots, snap beans, Swiss chard

\*denotes early maturing varieties such as:

Muskmelon -- Earlisweet, Burpee Hybrid

Watermelon -- Sugar Baby, Petite Sweet, Mickeylee

Sweet Corn -- Earliking, Aztec, Sundance, Seneca Horizon

It is often difficult to estimate when vegetable crops will be ready to be harvested. Weather conditions effect growth and development of the

crop and can advance or delay maturity. For flowering vegetables, days from flowering provide a fairly accurate determination of harvest time.

*Days from Flowering to Maturity*

Crop	Time (Days)
Snap bean	7-10
Sweet corn	15-23 (from silking)
Cucumber, slicing	15-18
Eggplant (2/3 maximum size)	25-40
Muskmelon	42-46
Pepper, green	45-55
Summer squash, zucchini	3-4
Tomato, red	40-50
Watermelon, large	50-60
Watermelon, icebox	28-32



## Look for Vegetable Garden Pests

The goal of a vegetable gardener is raising high quality produce. A pest management plan would include frequent inspection of plants, correct identification of pests, using preventive measures when possible and using both nonchemical and chemical methods of control.



Some pests to watch for are:

**Squash borer:** Examine the stems of the squash plant. Usually, a yellowish sawdust type of material called "frass" is located on the lower part of the plant -- an indication of the borer in the plants. Sometimes a crack is located on the lower portion of the stem. If borer is suspected, a sharp knife can be used to slit the stem carefully and remove the larvae. After this is done, pile soil around the plant and water thoroughly.

**Cucumber Beetle:** These beetles can be disastrous if not controlled. These insects not only chew the leaves, flowers, and fruits, but they also spread bacterial diseases as they visit the plants.

Since they multiply very fast, treat as soon as they are noticed with a recommended insecticide.

**Aphids and Mites:** These insects will be found under the leaves. A good surge of water pressure from the hose will usually remove them.

**Four-Spotted Sap Beetle:** This beetle is attracted to cracked or over ripe fruits. The best defense is to buy crack resistant Cultivars and keep garden areas clean of over ripe fruit.

**Mexican Bean Beetles:** Leaves with a lace like appearance may mean you have Mexican bean beetles. They eat the lower surface of the leaves between the veins. Clean up plant debris after harvest to discourage hibernating beetles. Treat at the first sign of injury.

If you choose to use a pesticide treatment remember to apply chemicals at dusk when pollinating bees are gone. Insecticides cannot be used during harvesting time. To reduce infestation, clean up all the unwanted fruits and dispose of them. If pesticides are used in the garden, identify the problem first, read the label carefully and apply them with caution.

# Iowa's Land and Environment

## Serving Competitive Needs?

The challenges facing Iowa are many. One of the greatest is how to preserve and protect Iowa's rich natural resources, while allowing the state's largest industry - agriculture - to thrive.

There are other concerns as well. The encroachment of urban populations on rural areas is one. The quality of Iowa's lakes, rivers and streams is another.

And there are questions. Who owns Iowa land? How is it valued and how is it taxed? What sort of outdoor recreational opportunities can Iowa offer? What do Iowans want Iowa to look like?

Iowa State University is sponsoring a series of three meetings in June where these and other concerns will be discussed. These regional meetings are designed to allow thorough discussion of statewide concerns, while also taking a close look at local issues.

**The Central Iowa meeting will be  
Friday, June 16  
9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.  
At  
West Des Moines  
Marriott**

Registration must be received by **June 8**. Contact your local county Extension office for a registration form.

A \$20 registration fee covers the cost of lunch, plus a new publication by ISU economists titled "*Iowa's Land and Environment - Serving Competing Needs*". The publication includes a historical perspective on land use and conservation, information on land ownership, valuation, taxation and use, results of public surveys and insight into a future vision for Iowa's landscape.

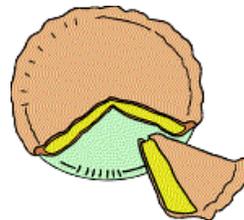
Summer is always a busy time with activities outside. If you have lawn and garden questions call the office, check the publications web site ([www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/pubs/](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Pages/pubs/)) or the horticulture and home pest newsletter web site [www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/](http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/)

## Horticulture Safety Quiz

*How do you think you did?*

Answer "a" is the correct answer to all of the questions. Please keep these questions and correct answers in mind as you start the gardening season full swing.

## Can I sell my cream pies at the Farmers Market?



Farmers markets are not required to be

licensed. The sale of raw fruits and vegetables, honey, eggs, and *non-potentially hazardous* food is permitted in these seasonal common marketplaces.

*Potentially hazardous* food refers to food that requires refrigeration to 41°F or below after preparation. *Non-potentially hazardous* food refers to food that does not require refrigeration after preparation.

With the sole exception of jams and jellies, *no "home style" canned goods can be sold at farmers markets.*

Full details and explanations are available in ISU Extension publication PM

1294 *Iowa Laws: Sale of Home-prepared Foods*

